

To: Actadmmccabe, Catherine17[Actadmmccabe.catherine17@epa.gov]; Flynn, Mike[Flynn.Mike@epa.gov]
From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Sun 2/5/2017 1:56:32 AM
Subject: FW: WH Comms Report for February 2
COMMS REPORT TEMPLATE v2 (003).docx

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

(mobile)

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2017 5:53 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: WH Comms Report for February 2

Please let me know if you need anything.

Thanks ng

To: Flynn, Mike[Flynn.Mike@epa.gov]; Actadmmccabe, Catherine17[Actadmmccabe.catherine17@epa.gov]
From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Sun 2/5/2017 1:56:11 AM
Subject: FW: WH Comms Report for February 3
COMMS REPORT TEMPLATE v2 (003) (002).docx

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Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

(mobile)

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2017 6:05 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: WH Comms Report for February 3

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks ng

To: Flynn, Mike[Flynn.Mike@epa.gov]; Connors, Sandra[Connors.Sandra@epa.gov]
From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Wed 2/1/2017 6:42:38 PM
Subject: FW: we are hearing that there is some sort of epa regulatory action happening on the hill today? has anyone heard about it? thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
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US Environmental Protection Agency
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Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy (mobile)

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 1:42 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Ericksen, Doug <ericksen.doug@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: we are hearing that there is some sort of epa regulatory action happening on the hill today? has anyone heard about it? thanks ng

John and Doug,

FYI on the subject line above.

Thanks ng

Here is a link to a NY Times article on this and similar planned actions:

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/30/us/politics/congressional-review-act-obama-regulations.html?_r=0

However, the House is planning a Congressional Review Act vote today on DOI's Stream Protection Rule, after taking a couple of procedural votes yesterday.

See more background below.

House GOP Prepares to Dam Obama's Stream Protection Rule

By Elvina Nawaguna, CQ Roll Call

House Republicans plan on Wednesday to use the Congressional Review Act to attempt to reverse the Obama administration's Stream Protection Rule, which targets runoff from coal mining operations and has been criticized by conservatives as harmful to the industry.

A resolution (HJ Res. 38) introduced by Rep. **Bill Johnson**, R-Ohio, would deliver on a GOP promise to act swiftly against the Stream Protection Rule, which was finalized by the Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining in December 2016.

The rule requires coal companies to avoid activities that permanently pollute streams, destroy drinking water sources, increase flood risk or risk damage to forests. It also requires coal companies to restore mined areas to uses they were capable of before mining activities and to replant those areas with native trees.

"Make no mistake about it, this Obama administration rule is not designed to protect streams," Johnson told reporters on Tuesday. "Instead, it was an effort to regulate the coal mining industry right out of business. We could not stand by and allow that to happen."

Republicans have said the regulation was produced without input from states, calling it unnecessary, expensive and duplicative.

On Monday, the House Rules Committee approved a closed rule for the resolution, limiting debate to an hour equally divided between Republicans and Democrats, and prohibiting amendments.

“Tomorrow, we will start the process of closing the book once and for all on eight years of the war on coal,” Rep. **Evan H. Jenkins**, R-W.Va., who cosponsored the measure said.

While coal state lawmakers have largely placed the blame for the decline in coal on Obama’s clean air regulations, economists argue that the drop in natural gas prices made coal less attractive to the markets and led to its troubles.

The influential U.S. Chamber of Commerce backed GOP plans to scuttle the regulation.

“This rule exceeds the department’s authority, will cause significant economic harm and job losses, and interferes with longstanding and successful state efforts to protect water quality,” Jack Howard, senior vice president of congressional and public affairs at the Chamber, said in a Tuesday news release.

Republicans are planning aggressive use of the CRA, which allows them to nullify regulations issued by the previous administration within the last 60 congressional days of its tenure, to undo former President Barack Obama’s environmental legacy. Obama administration rules issued as far back as June could be repealed under the statute.

House Majority Leader **Kevin McCarthy** of California told reporters on Tuesday many more rules will be reviewed under the CRA in coming weeks. Republicans are also taking aim at Interior’s rule to limit methane leaks from oil and natural gas operations on federal land.

“Part of that is to make America begin to work again, but also looking at common sense regulations to make sure industry can continue to work again,” McCarthy said.

In creating the Stream Protection Rule, the Obama administration argued it was needed to update 33-year-old regulations to take into account the latest science, technology and modern mining practices.

“There is nothing that has greater impact on people and their lives and how they go forward with their lives than this particular rule will have,” House Natural Resources Committee Chairman **Rob Bishop**, R-Utah, said. “It violates the Clean Water Act; it exceeds that particular authority.”

To: Emily Meredith[emeredith@energyintel.com]; Press[Press@epa.gov]
Sent: Tue 2/28/2017 5:45:20 PM
Subject: RE: Administrator Pruitt remarks

W

From: Emily Meredith [mailto:emeredith@energyintel.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:34 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Administrator Pruitt remarks

Hello,

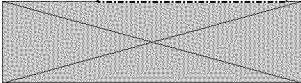
I'm writing with hopefully a quick q on Administrator Pruitt's remarks. I see that he's delivering a talk that's open to the press.

I'm a bit short-staffed today and am trying to figure out how to best spend time. Would you be able to offer any guidance on whether we should reasonably expect him to speak to the biofuels/renewable fuels issue? If the remarks were to cover, say the stream protection rule and impact on farmers, it's not something I would necessarily cover (though very important!). But the biofuels issue is a big one for us, and my domestic policy reporter is out today so I'd need to switch tasks for the day!

Many thanks, Emily

Emily Meredith
Deputy Bureau Chief

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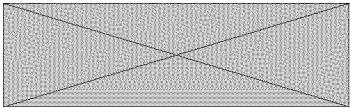
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To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Dewey, Amy
Sent: Fri 3/17/2017 7:47:44 PM
Subject: Coal Country Event
[removed.txt](#)
[NMA ACTION PLAN.docx](#)
[OP EDS.docx](#)
[SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS NMA.docx](#)
[PRESS RELEASE.docx](#)
[VIP LIST.docx](#)
[Coalcountryevent.docx](#)

Amy,
See attached, beginning with the one-page plan you'd requested and some attachments that may be helpful in fleshing this out.
Call when you've had a chance to review.
On weekend I can be reached on cell Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Luke



Luke Popovich
Vice President External Communications
National Mining Association
101 Constitution Ave. NW, Suite 500 East
Washington, D.C. 20001
Phone: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Direct: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
lpopovich@nma.org

Clean Power Plan – Coal States

Major Address -Event – Lexington, Kentucky (Convention Center) or Rupp Arena (Home of Kentucky, Wildcats)

Coal States

(NMA staff will contact all press staffs in these states to encourage them to issue positive statements thru their media operations)

Kentucky Coal Assn.

West Virginia Coal Assn.

Virginia Coal Assn.

Ohio Coal Assn.

Tennessee (TVA)

Pennsylvania Coal Assn.

Alabama Coal Assn.

Indiana Coal Assn.

Illinois Coal Assn.

Missouri Coal Assn.

Mississippi Coal Assn.

(Western Coal- Obama Administration placed a Moratorium on new coal leases on Federal Lands, will this be lifted?) If so the mining groups in the West need to be included: Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and Montana

National Mining Association will coordinate with EPA the Notification of the rollout with AG's from Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana(NMA), and West Virginia. Encouraging them to make public statements

Office of Public Engagement, EPA will contact & encourage public statements & social media outreach from:

United Mine Workers

American Public Power Assn. – OPE, EPA will contact them

National Rural Electric Cooperative Assn. OPE EPA will contact them

Utility Air Regulatory Group

Suggested VIP List – attached

Lifezette: How Trump maintains anti-regulatory momentum

The Hill: This time, elections have consequences for the Sierra Club

Lifezette: Killing Obama energy rule will help the most vulnerable (Steve Cap)

Pittsburg Tribune Review: A steep price for ignoring working Americans



How Trump Maintains Anti-Regulatory Momentum

By: Luke Popovich – Feb. 28, 2017

One of the themes emerging from the new Trump administration is a focus on overturning onerous regulations currently smothering American industries. It's a laudable goal, since government rules bear so heavily on middle-class job creation.

On Feb. 24, the president signed an executive order tasking officials with peeling back excess regulation. The president still faces a fairly big problem, however, since behind each regulatory door he opens, there are two more doors.

“Essentially, the Obama administration spent its second term cooking up a wide array of environmental measures that were both ideologically conceived and bureaucratically cumbersome.”

Essentially, the Obama administration spent its second term cooking up a wide array of environmental measures that were both ideologically conceived and bureaucratically cumbersome. And nowhere was such red tape stretched more aggressively than in the quest to keep coal and minerals in the ground.

Already, President Trump has followed through on some of his campaign pledges. For example, he signed a congressional resolution overturning the Obama-era “stream rule.” This massive rule simply duplicated existing measures to monitor coal mining and land reclamation. Thus, canceling the rule will not meaningfully impact environmental standards already in place. But it will lift the hefty costs intended to punish mining firms simply for extracting a carbon-based source of energy.

That's merely step one for the Trump administration, though. There's more to do.

First off, there's the leasing moratorium imposed on coal reserves on federal lands. Even though federal coal accounts for 42 percent of total U.S. coal production — while being responsible for 40 percent of total coal-generated electricity in 2014 — the Interior Department decided last year to shut down new coal leases for three years.

This smacks of political payoffs to activists since taxpayers receive 39 cents from every dollar earned from federal lease sales while the net global “carbon contribution” from federal coal is negligible. The moratorium solved a problem no one had.

The good news is that this moratorium can be lifted by the new Interior Department secretary as easily as it was imposed by his predecessor. Thus, after Ryan Zinke is confirmed for his post at the Interior Department, he could move quickly to end the moratorium.

Also in the administration's purview is the Obama administration's "Clean Power Plan" (CPP), the carbon reduction rule currently tied up in the D.C. Circuit Court. In essence, the CPP represents the zenith of regulatory ambition — a total transformation of the nation's energy grid, engineered by an environmental agency hoping to impose the very cap-and-trade regime that Congress repeatedly rejected.

The CPP is still breathing, but barely; it isn't legally binding until the D.C. Circuit decides its dubious legality. But Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt has reiterated his intention to scrap the plan — an encouraging prospect for the millions of Americans living in states that depend heavily on electricity from reliable and affordable coal-based power.

And finally, there's the blundering excess of the financial assurance requirement that Obama's EPA hoped to impose on hard-rock mining companies. It is already standard practice for mining firms in the United States to post financial assurances for the reclamation, closure, and post-closure costs of any mining site. But the EPA simply decided to duplicate these requirements, even though the process is already being managed successfully by state regulators as well as by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service.

Why would the EPA want to increase the financial burden on mining companies by requiring them to lay out additional capital for the same costs they've already covered? Because green activists have waged an ideological campaign opposed to mining, and the EPA simply acquiesced to their agenda. Ignored by these same environmentalists is their reliance on the very metals and minerals they would keep in the ground.

Trump Should End Obama Coal Lease Moratorium

New energy production on federal lands will generate affordable electricity for the entire country

Smartphones, for example, contain more than 40 metals and minerals extracted from state-of-the-art mining operations. And solar panels and wind turbines require copious amounts of bauxite, boron, cadmium, copper, cobalt, iron, molybdenum, etc. The new financial assurance requirement is another example of an environmental agenda lacking any real-world practicality.

Mining matters greatly to the future security of the United States, however. And it's not just the reliable, affordable energy that coal provides. Or the critical minerals needed for 21st century technologies. There's also the thousands upon thousands of good-paying, middle-class jobs on the line, and the economic impacts for industry and manufacturing.

This is why the Trump administration must continue to root out regulations that were conceived in an ideological vacuum — with little to justify their massive impact. Dismantling an anti-coal regulatory edifice, and ending the blanket hostility to mining, will do much to secure affordable energy and a stronger industrial base for America.



This Time, 'Elections Have Consequences' For The Sierra Club

By: Luke Popovich – Feb. 7, 2017

In the next week or so, the Sierra Club will twice be reminded of former President Obama's boast that "elections have consequences."

The Senate will likely confirm Scott Pruitt's nomination for EPA administrator following the Environment and Public Works Committee's recent vote.

Further, President Trump is expected to sign the resolution of disapproval that Congress passed last week to void the so-called Stream Protection Rule.

As the new administration gears up, canceling the stream rule will likely be the first bill signed during the Trump presidency.

The climate lobby that owned EPA for the last eight years is watching all of this transpire with dread, fretting that Caligula is about to capture the convent.

However, the many thousands of workers and businesses punished by EPA's regulatory overreach are ready to welcome Pruitt as their savior.

It's a stunning turnaround. But how did it happen?

Ironically, the Sierra Club may have provided one answer recently when it announced a new plan to cut 28 gigawatts of coal-fired power. Such a massive dismantling of coal power could destroy 65,000 U.S. jobs.

Of course, that's not how the Sierra Club announced its new plan, but that was what some of us heard.

To the red-carpet supporters, billionaire philanthropists, and trust-fund intellectuals who cheer the club's ambition to shut down another 28 gigawatts of coal-based generation, the jobs impact of this new goal will be lost in translation.

Cost is no consideration for this crowd. They don't worry about higher electricity costs, nor are their job prospects hurt by an assault on coal.

But the jobs impact of closing so much plant capacity is not lost on voters, especially not the hundreds of thousands of men and women whose jobs are tied to the U.S. coal supply chain.

Here's what these workers hear. The Sierra Club's 28 GW target equates to roughly 90 million tons of lost coal production — the annual volume of coal required to supply these power plants.

This lost volume translates into job losses of 10,000 direct coal mine workers, according to data from the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration, and 9,000 direct coal plant workers, based on DOE's "Energy and Employment Report".

Add to this toll the standard 3.6 multiplier for indirect job losses that is derived from U.S. labor bureau data and the Sierra Club's "goal" will kill another 46,000 jobs in the supply chain, including those in power plants, railroads, barge transport, ports, and equipment vendors.

Notably, Bureau of Labor Statistics data show fossil energy jobs of this kind paid an average of \$111,300 in 2015 — the type of wages that typically help to support a strong middle class.

Voters across the country often ask one another, "Where have all the good jobs gone? Why can't we create the kinds of jobs that once supported a family?"

It isn't necessarily China, automation, or a lack of qualified applicants that is slowly eroding living standards for the once great American middle class.

In part, it's the rising influence of well-funded advocacy groups pursuing trivial environmental improvements at the expense of economic growth and job creation.

For example, the stream rule that Congress overturned last week would not have delivered any meaningful environmental improvement.

The regulation simply duplicates existing oversight responsibilities already conducted by state and federal regulators. Such redundancy would have imposed heavy costs on coal producers.

There's also the Clean Power Plan — President Obama's contribution to the Paris Climate accords — that is now hamstrung in litigation.

It's estimated that the plan would destroy tens of thousands of additional jobs in the fossil energy sector just to deliver a global warming reduction so trivial that the EPA didn't even estimate it.

The Obama administration's single-minded devotion to the environmental left has meant a blunt clubbing of blue collar jobs.

It proved costly for the president's legacy in November. What industrial America saw was a focus on reduced carbon emissions and lower coal production that hurt tens of thousands of workers.

Small wonder that on Election Day they turned on their tormentors and the candidates who had turned against them first.

To woo voters back, the governing class must end its romance with the green lobby.

Their evangelical zeal for punitive energy regulations — from stopping pipelines to shuttering power plants — and indifference to the welfare of working Americans are incompatible with the economic growth and high-wage jobs that voters want.

The Sierra Club can't read election results, but Congress' actions this week demonstrate that Washington can.

Luke Popovich is Vice President for External Relations at the National Mining Association (NMA).



Killing Obama's Energy Rule Will Help The Most Vulnerable

By: Steven Capozzola – Feb.1, 2017

At a White House press briefing Tuesday, press secretary Sean Spicer was asked about the future of former President Obama's signature climate-change action, the Clean Power Plan. Spicer responded that the Trump administration is looking at "all of the options" when it comes to energy policy, including "clean coal." House Republicans announced a similar agenda earlier in the day, pushing a resolution under the Congressional Review Act to cancel Obama's last-minute "Stream Rule."

These are serious moves to roll back onerous regulations — the same rules that would have continued under a Hillary Clinton administration, and would have had major repercussions for America's working families.

The Clean Power Plan is currently under review by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. In part, that's because an estimated 45 states would see home energy costs rise by at least 10 percent under the plan. And 16 states would see utility bills rise by 25 percent or more.

It's noteworthy, though, that states depending heavily on coal-fired power have already made massive investments in technologies to scrub and trap particulate and gas emissions. But what's at issue now is carbon dioxide. And so, a family in Missouri, for example, paying \$175 per month for home heating would face a roughly \$45 monthly increase in utility bills if Obama's plan is allowed to continue.

The Environmental Protection Agency believes that the projected mass-transformation of America's entire power grid would be less costly, however. They cite an optimistic assessment from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) that households would see only a 3 percent to 7 percent uptick in energy bills — a roughly \$10 monthly increase in home utility costs.

Even if such rosy predictions proved accurate, however, there's still a human element to consider. It may seem unfathomable to elected officials in Washington, or to the comfortable elite of New York and California, but \$10 represents a sizable amount of money to many Americans. In fact, it's very possible that millions of Americans can't afford to pay an additional \$10 per month for electricity right now.

Approximately 40 percent of U.S. households spend 17 cents of every after-tax dollar on energy-related expenses. This shouldn't be surprising, given the vast increase in service sector employment over the past decade. Simply put, millions of Americans are currently trudging through hourly work in shopping malls and restaurants, and they are hard-pressed to buy food and medicine, let alone pay more for their electricity. Even the EIA subtly notes this stark reality when it admits that "higher prices" would "decrease electricity usage" — a tacit acknowledgement that Americans would have to lower their thermostats and switch off lights in order to afford the Clean Power Plan.

With one study suggesting that the plan could actually drive up annual household electricity bills by an average of \$680, it's not hard to foresee the serious damage that "decarbonization" policies could wreak.

Much of the country is currently consumed with post-election squabbling. But the real focus should be on those who literally can't pay an extra \$10 a month for electricity. This is what should animate the media — and Washington — right now. And it's why Congress and the president are right to overturn questionable regulations that will impose such hardships on America's struggling middle class.

Steven Capozzola has served as media director for both the Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM) and the U.S. Business & Industry Council (USBIC).



A Steep Price For Ignoring Working Americans

By: Luke Popovich – Jan. 10, 2017

Congress returned last week, just in time to digest a prescient election post-mortem from celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain. In a New Year's Day dissection of his party's November collapse, Bourdain blamed "privileged Eastern liberals for showing utter contempt" for working-class America.

As Bourdain sees it, when media and pop culture figures "mock them at every turn and treat them with contempt, we do no one any good."

Bourdain could well have been describing coal country when he recounted his various travels in what he calls "God-fearing America." There he found "nice" people doing what everyone else in the world is doing: "the best they can to get by and take care of themselves and the people they love."

There's a belated message here for an administration that has been arguably tougher on coal states than on some of our foreign enemies.

Clearly, even state pollsters missed the impact that alienated blue-collar America would have on the election. As The Washington Post's Dave Weigel noted recently, local pundits called it one way throughout the industrial heartland. Yet the people voted the other way. It must be time, then, to change the bait when Republicans can capture the Kentucky legislature, while the Democrat standard-bearer draws only 26 percent of West Virginia voters.

So how do Democrats bring the economically marginalized and politically disenfranchised back into the fold? It's a pressing question, since 10 Senate Democrats are less than two years away from re-election in states carried by Donald Trump.

One way to win back blue-collar workers is to stop groveling before the Sierra Club and the "privileged Eastern liberals" who fund it, and instead propose policies that treat working Americans as real people rather than deplorable abstractions.

For example, there is scarcely an interest group whose regulatory agenda has been more systematically hostile to economic growth and blue-collar America than "keep it in the ground" activists. After losing the midterm elections across the board, President Obama decided to fulfill the Sierra Club's fantasies via a string of executive orders and regulations. But this only accelerated the steady erosion of working-class support that had helped to bring him into office.

The result: The environmental left has managed to pit the traditional party of working men and women against working men and women, costing miners their jobs and Democrats their seats.

The election proved there will be scant penalty for elected officials who ignore the demands of the Sierra Club and the spring break Bolsheviks who swell its ranks. Elected officials can win by offering more responsible environmental solutions — ones that respect the interests of working people and their need for affordable energy.

If a celebrity chef from New York can see this, maybe the DNC intelligentsia can, too. So here's to a reboot of the political landscape, with the interests of coal miners and factory workers featured more prominently.

Luke Popovich is vice president for external communications for the National Mining Association.



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Luke Popovich
(202) 463-2620
lpopovich@nma.org

March 23, 2017

NMA Applauds Executive Order Targeting the Costly Power Plan and the Coal Moratorium

Prompt Action Can Save High-Wage Jobs and Strengthen Energy Independence

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Mining Association (NMA) today applauded President Trump’s executive order on the costly Clean Power Plan (CPP) and the Department of the Interior moratorium on federal coal leasing.

The order begins the process to unwind the CPP, the Obama administration’s signature climate change regulation that was stayed by the Supreme Court one year ago. Lifting the federal coal moratorium would remove the cloud over future investments in a coal region responsible for 40 percent of the U.S. coal supply.

“The clean power plan and the moratorium served the interests of political activists, not the American people,” said Hal Quinn, NMA president and CEO. “The president’s actions today help to restore common sense priorities and the important balance between costs and benefits that have been missing from federal regulatory policies.”

Quinn called the CPP “an unlawful attempt to radically transform the nation’s power grid, destroying valuable energy assets and leaving our economy more vulnerable to rising power prices—all for no discernible environmental benefit.”

EIA recently found that unplugging the CPP would preserve 240 million tons of annual coal production (*EIA AEO 2017*), saving 27,700 high-wage mining jobs and an additional 99,849 jobs throughout the supply chain, according to NMA estimates.

“The moratorium on federal coal leasing was entirely without merit and rested on politically contrived reasoning,” Quinn added. The moratorium was never about a fair return to the taxpayer, and all about capitulating to the demands of the “keep-it-in-the-

ground' movement. By every metric, the federal coal leasing program is highly profitable to taxpayers with annual leasing revenues in 2015 double the amount received 12 years ago.

BACKGROUND ON OBAMA ERA RULES

Clean Power Plan

The CPP is an Obama Administration policy regulating carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. If implemented, the rule would transform the mix of electricity generation in nearly every state in the nation. In addition to the National Mining Association, 26 states, the utility industry, electric cooperatives; labor groups and industry associations including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and National Association of Manufacturers challenged the rule.

Due to the extraordinary nature of the case and the threat of immediate economic harm posed by the rule, the Supreme Court issued a stay on Feb. 9, 2016, suspending any obligation by the states to implement the rule before litigation is completed. The Supreme Court has never issued a stay of a government regulation before a lower court has heard the merits of the case.

All Pain and No Gain

The CPP would be extremely costly while providing no significant environmental benefits. The Energy Information Administration recently forecast the CPP would force 53,000 Megawatts of coal generating capacity into retirement (*EIA AEO May 2017*) sending coal production down by 28 percent.

The CPP would harm the wider economy, including households and businesses. After implementation, the typical annual household electricity bills in 2020 would be more than a third higher than they were in 2012, or an estimated \$680 per family. More than 40 states would face double-digit increases in the cost of wholesale electricity, with the CPP increasing wholesale electricity prices by \$214 billion. The construction of replacement generating capacity would cost an additional \$64 billion. To view state-by-state impacts of the CPP, visit: <http://www.countoncoal.org/costly-power-plan/>.

The Federal Coal Leasing Moratorium

The Obama leasing moratorium represented an abrupt about face from the Department of Interior's earlier rejection of the unfounded claims advanced by special interests that sought to deny the public the twin benefits of a source of low-cost electricity and revenues derived from coal mining. A report prepared by Norwest Corporation revealed that the Secretary of the Interior uncritically accepted incomplete and manipulated data from several advocacy organizations to suggest that federal coal producers pay below market royalties and fees. In fact, the report shows that federal coal producers are paying above-market royalty rates as well as bonus bids and other fees that are rarely, if ever, charged on private coal leases.

###

The National Mining Association (NMA) is the voice of the American mining industry in Washington, D.C. Membership includes more than 325 corporations involved in all aspects of coal and solid minerals production including coal, metal and industrial mineral producers, mineral processors, equipment manufacturers, state mining associations, bulk transporters, engineering firms, consultants, financial institutions and other companies that supply goods and services to the mining industry.

To: Emily Meredith[emeredith@energyintel.com]
From: Milbourn, Cathy
Sent: Tue 2/28/2017 7:17:55 PM
Subject: RE: Administrator Pruitt remarks

Hi Emily,

We don't have any information for you.

Cathy

From: Emily Meredith [mailto:emeredith@energyintel.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:34 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Administrator Pruitt remarks

Hello,

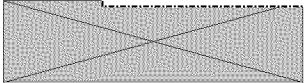
I'm writing with hopefully a quick q on Administrator Pruitt's remarks. I see that he's delivering a talk that's open to the press.

I'm a bit short-staffed today and am trying to figure out how to best spend time. Would you be able to offer any guidance on whether we should reasonably expect him to speak to the biofuels/renewable fuels issue? If the remarks were to cover, say the stream protection rule and impact on farmers, it's not something I would necessarily cover (though very important!). But the biofuels issue is a big one for us, and my domestic policy reporter is out today so I'd need to switch tasks for the day!

Many thanks, Emily

Emily Meredith
Deputy Bureau Chief

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To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]; Milbourn, Cathy[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
Cc: Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]
From: Press
Sent: Tue 2/28/2017 6:18:00 PM
Subject: JOHN RE: CATHY FW: Administrator Pruitt remarks

I didn't see responses to these.

If you are busy we can respond with the v simple proposed answers in parens.

- Coral Davenport, NYT, 11:33, can you send transcript or remarks as prepared? (Response: we won't have either, but there will be video clips)
- Brady Dennis, WP, 11:34 AM is there a live feed? (Answer: no live feed)
- Maya Weber, S+P Global/Platts, 12:10 PM; will he be addressing WOTUS in remarks? (we do not have prepared remarks to provide)
- Emily Meredith, Energy Intel, 12:34 PM; planning ques – addressing biofuels? (sorry we don't have any direction for you on this)

One was answered by Cathy

- Jen Dlouhy, Bberg, 11:45 AM; video feed of remarks? Answer: No.

Thanks

Julia P. Valentine
Assoc. Dir./Acting Dir.
U.S. EPA, Ofc of Media Relations
202.564.2663 direct

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

m/txt

From: Valentine, Julia
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:39 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: CATHY FW: Administrator Pruitt remarks

Great, thanks.

Julia P. Valentine
Assoc. Dir./Acting Dir.
U.S. EPA, Ofc of Media Relations
202.564.2663 direct

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

m/txt

From: Konkus, John
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:38 PM
To: Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>; Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: CATHY FW: Administrator Pruitt remarks

This is John. Cathy and I will handle them. Thanks!

From: Valentine, Julia
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:37 PM
To: Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: CATHY FW: Administrator Pruitt remarks

Cathy,

Are you handling speech related qs?

Thanks

Julia P. Valentine
Assoc. Dir./Acting Dir.
U.S. EPA, Ofc of Media Relations
202.564.2663 direct

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

m/txt

From: Emily Meredith [mailto:emeredith@energyintel.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:34 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Administrator Pruitt remarks

Hello,

I'm writing with hopefully a quick q on Administrator Pruitt's remarks. I see that he's delivering a talk that's open to the press.

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Many thanks, Emily

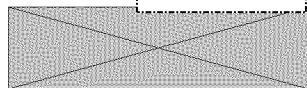
Emily Meredith
Deputy Bureau Chief

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To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]; Milbourn, Cathy[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
Cc: Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Valentine, Julia
Sent: Tue 2/28/2017 5:38:41 PM
Subject: RE: CATHY FW: Administrator Pruitt remarks

Great, thanks.

Julia P. Valentine
Assoc. Dir./Acting Dir.
U.S. EPA, Ofc of Media Relations
202.564.2663 direct

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

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Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
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Thanks

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202.564.2663 direct

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

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To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Administrator Pruitt remarks

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Emily Meredith
Deputy Bureau Chief

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[REDACTED]

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To: Milbourn, Cathy[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
Cc: Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Valentine, Julia
Sent: Tue 2/28/2017 5:36:59 PM
Subject: CATHY FW: Administrator Pruitt remarks removed.txt

Cathy,

Are you handling speech related qs?

Thanks

Julia P. Valentine
Assoc. Dir./Acting Dir.
U.S. EPA, Ofc of Media Relations
202.564.2663 direct
Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy m/txt

From: Emily Meredith [mailto:emeredith@energyintel.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:34 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Administrator Pruitt remarks

Hello,

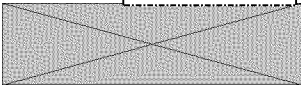
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To: Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Emily Meredith
Sent: Tue 2/28/2017 5:34:29 PM
Subject: Administrator Pruitt remarks
[removed.txt](#)

Hello,

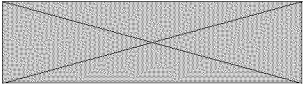
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To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
Cc: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Fri 2/3/2017 11:05:13 PM
Subject: WH Comms Report for February 3
COMMS REPORT TEMPLATE v2 (003) (002).docx

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks ng

To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
Cc: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Thur 2/2/2017 10:53:01 PM
Subject: WH Comms Report for February 2
COMMS REPORT TEMPLATE v2 (003).docx

Please let me know if you need anything.

Thanks ng

To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]; Ericksen, Doug[ericksen.doug@epa.gov]
Cc: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Wed 2/1/2017 6:41:39 PM
Subject: FW: we are hearing that there is some sort of epa regulatory action happening on the hill today? has anyone heard about it? thanks ng

John and Doug,

FYI on the subject line above.

Thanks ng

Here is a link to a NY Times article on this and similar planned actions:

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/30/us/politics/congressional-review-act-obama-regulations.html?_r=0

However, the House is planning a Congressional Review Act vote today on DOI's Stream Protection Rule, after taking a couple of procedural votes yesterday.

See more background below.

House GOP Prepares to Dam Obama's Stream Protection Rule

By Elvina Nawaguna, CQ Roll Call

House Republicans plan on Wednesday to use the Congressional Review Act to attempt to reverse the Obama administration's Stream Protection Rule, which targets runoff from coal mining operations and has been criticized by conservatives as harmful to the industry.

A resolution (HJ Res. 38) introduced by Rep. **Bill Johnson**, R-Ohio, would deliver on a GOP promise to act swiftly against the Stream Protection Rule, which was finalized by the Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining in December 2016.

The rule requires coal companies to avoid activities that permanently pollute streams, destroy drinking water sources, increase flood risk or risk damage to forests. It also requires coal companies to restore mined areas to uses they were capable of before mining activities and to replant those areas with native trees.

"Make no mistake about it, this Obama administration rule is not designed to protect streams," Johnson told reporters on Tuesday. "Instead, it was an effort to regulate the coal mining industry right out of business. We could not stand by and allow that to happen."

Republicans have said the regulation was produced without input from states, calling it unnecessary, expensive and duplicative.

On Monday, the House Rules Committee approved a closed rule for the resolution, limiting debate to an hour equally divided between Republicans and Democrats, and prohibiting amendments.

"Tomorrow, we will start the process of closing the book once and for all on eight years of the war on coal," Rep. **Evan H. Jenkins**, R-W.Va., who cosponsored the measure said.

While coal state lawmakers have largely placed the blame for the decline in coal on Obama's clean air regulations, economists argue that the drop in natural gas prices made coal less attractive to the markets and led to its troubles.

The influential U.S. Chamber of Commerce backed GOP plans to scuttle the regulation.

"This rule exceeds the department's authority, will cause significant economic harm and job losses, and interferes with longstanding and successful state efforts to protect water quality," Jack Howard, senior vice president of congressional and public affairs at the Chamber, said in a Tuesday news release.

Republicans are planning aggressive use of the CRA, which allows them to nullify regulations issued by the previous administration within the last 60 congressional days of its tenure, to undo former President Barack Obama's environmental legacy. Obama administration rules issued as far back as June could be repealed under the statute.

House Majority Leader **Kevin McCarthy** of California told reporters on Tuesday many more rules will be reviewed under the

CRA in coming weeks. Republicans are also taking aim at Interior's rule to limit methane leaks from oil and natural gas operations on federal land.

"Part of that is to make America begin to work again, but also looking at common sense regulations to make sure industry can continue to work again," McCarthy said.

In creating the Stream Protection Rule, the Obama administration argued it was needed to update 33-year-old regulations to take into account the latest science, technology and modern mining practices.

"There is nothing that has greater impact on people and their lives and how they go forward with their lives than this particular rule will have," House Natural Resources Committee Chairman **Rob Bishop**, R-Utah, said. "It violates the Clean Water Act; it exceeds that particular authority."

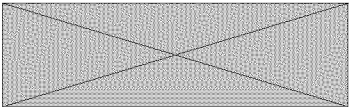
To: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
From: Konkus, John
Sent: Sat 3/18/2017 12:49:18 PM
Subject: Fwd: Coal Country Event
[removed.txt](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)
[NMA ACTION PLAN.docx](#)
[ATT00002.htm](#)
[OP EDS.docx](#)
[ATT00003.htm](#)
[SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS NMA.docx](#)
[ATT00004.htm](#)
[PRESS RELEASE.docx](#)
[ATT00005.htm](#)
[VIP LIST.docx](#)
[ATT00006.htm](#)
[Coalcountryevent.docx](#)
[ATT00007.htm](#)

To help up roll out CPP EO...

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Dewey, Amy" <Dewey.Amy@epa.gov>
Date: March 17, 2017 at 3:47:44 PM EDT
To: "Konkus, John" <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: Coal Country Event

Amy,
See attached, beginning with the one-page plan you'd requested and some attachments that may be helpful in fleshing this out.
Call when you've had a chance to review.
On weekend I can be reached on cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Luke



Luke Popovich
Vice President External Communications
National Mining Association
101 Constitution Ave. NW, Suite 500 East
Washington, D.C. 20001
Phone: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Direct: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
lpopovich@nma.org

Clean Power Plan – Coal States

Major Address -Event – Lexington, Kentucky (Convention Center) or Rupp Arena (Home of Kentucky, Wildcats)

Coal States

(NMA staff will contact all press staffs in these states to encourage them to issue positive statements thru their media operations)

Kentucky Coal Assn.

West Virginia Coal Assn.

Virginia Coal Assn.

Ohio Coal Assn.

Tennessee (TVA)

Pennsylvania Coal Assn.

Alabama Coal Assn.

Indiana Coal Assn.

Illinois Coal Assn.

Missouri Coal Assn.

Mississippi Coal Assn.

(Western Coal- Obama Administration placed a Moratorium on new coal leases on Federal Lands, will this be lifted?) If so the mining groups in the West need to be included: Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and Montana

National Mining Association will coordinate with EPA the Notification of the rollout with AG's from Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana(NMA), and West Virginia. Encouraging them to make public statements

Office of Public Engagement, EPA will contact & encourage public statements & social media outreach from:

United Mine Workers

American Public Power Assn. – OPE, EPA will contact them

National Rural Electric Cooperative Assn. OPE EPA will contact them

Utility Air Regulatory Group

Suggested VIP List – attached

Lifezette: How Trump maintains anti-regulatory momentum

The Hill: This time, elections have consequences for the Sierra Club

Lifezette: Killing Obama energy rule will help the most vulnerable (Steve Cap)

Pittsburg Tribune Review: A steep price for ignoring working Americans



How Trump Maintains Anti-Regulatory Momentum

By: Luke Popovich – Feb. 28, 2017

One of the themes emerging from the new Trump administration is a focus on overturning onerous regulations currently smothering American industries. It's a laudable goal, since government rules bear so heavily on middle-class job creation.

On Feb. 24, the president signed an executive order tasking officials with peeling back excess regulation. The president still faces a fairly big problem, however, since behind each regulatory door he opens, there are two more doors.

“Essentially, the Obama administration spent its second term cooking up a wide array of environmental measures that were both ideologically conceived and bureaucratically cumbersome.”

Essentially, the Obama administration spent its second term cooking up a wide array of environmental measures that were both ideologically conceived and bureaucratically cumbersome. And nowhere was such red tape stretched more aggressively than in the quest to keep coal and minerals in the ground.

Already, President Trump has followed through on some of his campaign pledges. For example, he signed a congressional resolution overturning the Obama-era “stream rule.” This massive rule simply duplicated existing measures to monitor coal mining and land reclamation. Thus, canceling the rule will not meaningfully impact environmental standards already in place. But it will lift the hefty costs intended to punish mining firms simply for extracting a carbon-based source of energy.

That's merely step one for the Trump administration, though. There's more to do.

First off, there's the leasing moratorium imposed on coal reserves on federal lands. Even though federal coal accounts for 42 percent of total U.S. coal production — while being responsible for 40 percent of total coal-generated electricity in 2014 — the Interior Department decided last year to shut down new coal leases for three years.

This smacks of political payoffs to activists since taxpayers receive 39 cents from every dollar earned from federal lease sales while the net global “carbon contribution” from federal coal is negligible. The moratorium solved a problem no one had.

The good news is that this moratorium can be lifted by the new Interior Department secretary as easily as it was imposed by his predecessor. Thus, after Ryan Zinke is confirmed for his post at the Interior Department, he could move quickly to end the moratorium.

Also in the administration's purview is the Obama administration's "Clean Power Plan" (CPP), the carbon reduction rule currently tied up in the D.C. Circuit Court. In essence, the CPP represents the zenith of regulatory ambition — a total transformation of the nation's energy grid, engineered by an environmental agency hoping to impose the very cap-and-trade regime that Congress repeatedly rejected.

The CPP is still breathing, but barely; it isn't legally binding until the D.C. Circuit decides its dubious legality. But Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt has reiterated his intention to scrap the plan — an encouraging prospect for the millions of Americans living in states that depend heavily on electricity from reliable and affordable coal-based power.

And finally, there's the blundering excess of the financial assurance requirement that Obama's EPA hoped to impose on hard-rock mining companies. It is already standard practice for mining firms in the United States to post financial assurances for the reclamation, closure, and post-closure costs of any mining site. But the EPA simply decided to duplicate these requirements, even though the process is already being managed successfully by state regulators as well as by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service.

Why would the EPA want to increase the financial burden on mining companies by requiring them to lay out additional capital for the same costs they've already covered? Because green activists have waged an ideological campaign opposed to mining, and the EPA simply acquiesced to their agenda. Ignored by these same environmentalists is their reliance on the very metals and minerals they would keep in the ground.

Trump Should End Obama Coal Lease Moratorium

New energy production on federal lands will generate affordable electricity for the entire country

Smartphones, for example, contain more than 40 metals and minerals extracted from state-of-the-art mining operations. And solar panels and wind turbines require copious amounts of bauxite, boron, cadmium, copper, cobalt, iron, molybdenum, etc. The new financial assurance requirement is another example of an environmental agenda lacking any real-world practicality.

Mining matters greatly to the future security of the United States, however. And it's not just the reliable, affordable energy that coal provides. Or the critical minerals needed for 21st century technologies. There's also the thousands upon thousands of good-paying, middle-class jobs on the line, and the economic impacts for industry and manufacturing.

This is why the Trump administration must continue to root out regulations that were conceived in an ideological vacuum — with little to justify their massive impact. Dismantling an anti-coal regulatory edifice, and ending the blanket hostility to mining, will do much to secure affordable energy and a stronger industrial base for America.



This Time, 'Elections Have Consequences' For The Sierra Club

By: Luke Popovich – Feb. 7, 2017

In the next week or so, the Sierra Club will twice be reminded of former President Obama's boast that "elections have consequences."

The Senate will likely confirm Scott Pruitt's nomination for EPA administrator following the Environment and Public Works Committee's recent vote.

Further, President Trump is expected to sign the resolution of disapproval that Congress passed last week to void the so-called Stream Protection Rule.

As the new administration gears up, canceling the stream rule will likely be the first bill signed during the Trump presidency.

The climate lobby that owned EPA for the last eight years is watching all of this transpire with dread, fretting that Caligula is about to capture the convent.

However, the many thousands of workers and businesses punished by EPA's regulatory overreach are ready to welcome Pruitt as their savior.

It's a stunning turnaround. But how did it happen?

Ironically, the Sierra Club may have provided one answer recently when it announced a new plan to cut 28 gigawatts of coal-fired power. Such a massive dismantling of coal power could destroy 65,000 U.S. jobs.

Of course, that's not how the Sierra Club announced its new plan, but that was what some of us heard.

To the red-carpet supporters, billionaire philanthropists, and trust-fund intellectuals who cheer the club's ambition to shut down another 28 gigawatts of coal-based generation, the jobs impact of this new goal will be lost in translation.

Cost is no consideration for this crowd. They don't worry about higher electricity costs, nor are their job prospects hurt by an assault on coal.

But the jobs impact of closing so much plant capacity is not lost on voters, especially not the hundreds of thousands of men and women whose jobs are tied to the U.S. coal supply chain.

Here's what these workers hear. The Sierra Club's 28 GW target equates to roughly 90 million tons of lost coal production — the annual volume of coal required to supply these power plants.

This lost volume translates into job losses of 10,000 direct coal mine workers, according to data from the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration, and 9,000 direct coal plant workers, based on DOE's "Energy and Employment Report".

Add to this toll the standard 3.6 multiplier for indirect job losses that is derived from U.S. labor bureau data and the Sierra Club's "goal" will kill another 46,000 jobs in the supply chain, including those in power plants, railroads, barge transport, ports, and equipment vendors.

Notably, Bureau of Labor Statistics data show fossil energy jobs of this kind paid an average of \$111,300 in 2015 — the type of wages that typically help to support a strong middle class.

Voters across the country often ask one another, "Where have all the good jobs gone? Why can't we create the kinds of jobs that once supported a family?"

It isn't necessarily China, automation, or a lack of qualified applicants that is slowly eroding living standards for the once great American middle class.

In part, it's the rising influence of well-funded advocacy groups pursuing trivial environmental improvements at the expense of economic growth and job creation.

For example, the stream rule that Congress overturned last week would not have delivered any meaningful environmental improvement.

The regulation simply duplicates existing oversight responsibilities already conducted by state and federal regulators. Such redundancy would have imposed heavy costs on coal producers.

There's also the Clean Power Plan — President Obama's contribution to the Paris Climate accords — that is now hamstrung in litigation.

It's estimated that the plan would destroy tens of thousands of additional jobs in the fossil energy sector just to deliver a global warming reduction so trivial that the EPA didn't even estimate it.

The Obama administration's single-minded devotion to the environmental left has meant a blunt clubbing of blue collar jobs.

It proved costly for the president's legacy in November. What industrial America saw was a focus on reduced carbon emissions and lower coal production that hurt tens of thousands of workers.

Small wonder that on Election Day they turned on their tormentors and the candidates who had turned against them first.

To woo voters back, the governing class must end its romance with the green lobby.

Their evangelical zeal for punitive energy regulations — from stopping pipelines to shuttering power plants — and indifference to the welfare of working Americans are incompatible with the economic growth and high-wage jobs that voters want.

The Sierra Club can't read election results, but Congress' actions this week demonstrate that Washington can.

Luke Popovich is Vice President for External Relations at the National Mining Association (NMA).



Killing Obama's Energy Rule Will Help The Most Vulnerable

By: Steven Capozolla – Feb.1, 2017

At a White House press briefing Tuesday, press secretary Sean Spicer was asked about the future of former President Obama's signature climate-change action, the Clean Power Plan. Spicer responded that the Trump administration is looking at "all of the options" when it comes to energy policy, including "clean coal." House Republicans announced a similar agenda earlier in the day, pushing a resolution under the Congressional Review Act to cancel Obama's last-minute "Stream Rule."

These are serious moves to roll back onerous regulations — the same rules that would have continued under a Hillary Clinton administration, and would have had major repercussions for America's working families.

The Clean Power Plan is currently under review by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. In part, that's because an estimated 45 states would see home energy costs rise by at least 10 percent under the plan. And 16 states would see utility bills rise by 25 percent or more.

It's noteworthy, though, that states depending heavily on coal-fired power have already made massive investments in technologies to scrub and trap particulate and gas emissions. But what's at issue now is carbon dioxide. And so, a family in Missouri, for example, paying \$175 per month for home heating would face a roughly \$45 monthly increase in utility bills if Obama's plan is allowed to continue.

The Environmental Protection Agency believes that the projected mass-transformation of America's entire power grid would be less costly, however. They cite an optimistic assessment from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) that households would see only a 3 percent to 7 percent uptick in energy bills — a roughly \$10 monthly increase in home utility costs.

Even if such rosy predictions proved accurate, however, there's still a human element to consider. It may seem unfathomable to elected officials in Washington, or to the comfortable elite of New York and California, but \$10 represents a sizable amount of money to many Americans. In fact, it's very possible that millions of Americans can't afford to pay an additional \$10 per month for electricity right now.

Approximately 40 percent of U.S. households spend 17 cents of every after-tax dollar on energy-related expenses. This shouldn't be surprising, given the vast increase in service sector employment over the past decade. Simply put, millions of Americans are currently trudging through hourly work in shopping malls and restaurants, and they are hard-pressed to buy food and medicine, let alone pay more for their electricity. Even the EIA subtly notes this stark reality when it admits that "higher prices" would "decrease electricity usage" — a tacit acknowledgement that Americans would have to lower their thermostats and switch off lights in order to afford the Clean Power Plan.

With one study suggesting that the plan could actually drive up annual household electricity bills by an average of \$680, it's not hard to foresee the serious damage that "decarbonization" policies could wreak.

Much of the country is currently consumed with post-election squabbling. But the real focus should be on those who literally can't pay an extra \$10 a month for electricity. This is what should animate the media — and Washington — right now. And it's why Congress and the president are right to overturn questionable regulations that will impose such hardships on America's struggling middle class.

Steven Capozzola has served as media director for both the Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM) and the U.S. Business & Industry Council (USBIC).

TRIBLIVE

A Steep Price For Ignoring Working Americans

By: Luke Popovich – Jan. 10, 2017

Congress returned last week, just in time to digest a prescient election post-mortem from celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain. In a New Year's Day dissection of his party's November collapse, Bourdain blamed "privileged Eastern liberals for showing utter contempt" for working-class America.

As Bourdain sees it, when media and pop culture figures "mock them at every turn and treat them with contempt, we do no one any good."

Bourdain could well have been describing coal country when he recounted his various travels in what he calls "God-fearing America." There he found "nice" people doing what everyone else in the world is doing: "the best they can to get by and take care of themselves and the people they love."

There's a belated message here for an administration that has been arguably tougher on coal states than on some of our foreign enemies.

Clearly, even state pollsters missed the impact that alienated blue-collar America would have on the election. As The Washington Post's Dave Weigel noted recently, local pundits called it one way throughout the industrial heartland. Yet the people voted the other way. It must be time, then, to change the bait when Republicans can capture the Kentucky legislature, while the Democrat standard-bearer draws only 26 percent of West Virginia voters.

So how do Democrats bring the economically marginalized and politically disenfranchised back into the fold? It's a pressing question, since 10 Senate Democrats are less than two years away from re-election in states carried by Donald Trump.

One way to win back blue-collar workers is to stop groveling before the Sierra Club and the "privileged Eastern liberals" who fund it, and instead propose policies that treat working Americans as real people rather than deplorable abstractions.

For example, there is scarcely an interest group whose regulatory agenda has been more systematically hostile to economic growth and blue-collar America than "keep it in the ground" activists. After losing the midterm elections across the board, President Obama decided to fulfill the Sierra Club's fantasies via a string of executive orders and regulations. But this only accelerated the steady erosion of working-class support that had helped to bring him into office.

The result: The environmental left has managed to pit the traditional party of working men and women against working men and women, costing miners their jobs and Democrats their seats.

The election proved there will be scant penalty for elected officials who ignore the demands of the Sierra Club and the spring break Bolsheviks who swell its ranks. Elected officials can win by offering more responsible environmental solutions — ones that respect the interests of working people and their need for affordable energy.

If a celebrity chef from New York can see this, maybe the DNC intelligentsia can, too. So here's to a reboot of the political landscape, with the interests of coal miners and factory workers featured more prominently.

Luke Popovich is vice president for external communications for the National Mining Association.



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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March 23, 2017

NMA Applauds Executive Order Targeting the Costly Power Plan and the Coal Moratorium

Prompt Action Can Save High-Wage Jobs and Strengthen Energy Independence

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Mining Association (NMA) today applauded President Trump’s executive order on the costly Clean Power Plan (CPP) and the Department of the Interior moratorium on federal coal leasing.

The order begins the process to unwind the CPP, the Obama administration’s signature climate change regulation that was stayed by the Supreme Court one year ago. Lifting the federal coal moratorium would remove the cloud over future investments in a coal region responsible for 40 percent of the U.S. coal supply.

“The clean power plan and the moratorium served the interests of political activists, not the American people,” said Hal Quinn, NMA president and CEO. “The president’s actions today help to restore common sense priorities and the important balance between costs and benefits that have been missing from federal regulatory policies.”

Quinn called the CPP “an unlawful attempt to radically transform the nation’s power grid, destroying valuable energy assets and leaving our economy more vulnerable to rising power prices—all for no discernible environmental benefit.”

EIA recently found that unplugging the CPP would preserve 240 million tons of annual coal production (*EIA AEO 2017*), saving 27,700 high-wage mining jobs and an additional 99,849 jobs throughout the supply chain, according to NMA estimates.

“The moratorium on federal coal leasing was entirely without merit and rested on politically contrived reasoning,” Quinn added. The moratorium was never about a fair return to the taxpayer, and all about capitulating to the demands of the “keep-it-in-the-

ground' movement. By every metric, the federal coal leasing program is highly profitable to taxpayers with annual leasing revenues in 2015 double the amount received 12 years ago.

BACKGROUND ON OBAMA ERA RULES

Clean Power Plan

The CPP is an Obama Administration policy regulating carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. If implemented, the rule would transform the mix of electricity generation in nearly every state in the nation. In addition to the National Mining Association, 26 states, the utility industry, electric cooperatives; labor groups and industry associations including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and National Association of Manufacturers challenged the rule.

Due to the extraordinary nature of the case and the threat of immediate economic harm posed by the rule, the Supreme Court issued a stay on Feb. 9, 2016, suspending any obligation by the states to implement the rule before litigation is completed. The Supreme Court has never issued a stay of a government regulation before a lower court has heard the merits of the case.

All Pain and No Gain

The CPP would be extremely costly while providing no significant environmental benefits. The Energy Information Administration recently forecast the CPP would force 53,000 Megawatts of coal generating capacity into retirement (*EIA AEO May 2017*) sending coal production down by 28 percent.

The CPP would harm the wider economy, including households and businesses. After implementation, the typical annual household electricity bills in 2020 would be more than a third higher than they were in 2012, or an estimated \$680 per family. More than 40 states would face double-digit increases in the cost of wholesale electricity, with the CPP increasing wholesale electricity prices by \$214 billion. The construction of replacement generating capacity would cost an additional \$64 billion. To view state-by-state impacts of the CPP, visit: <http://www.countoncoal.org/costly-power-plan/>.

The Federal Coal Leasing Moratorium

The Obama leasing moratorium represented an abrupt about face from the Department of Interior's earlier rejection of the unfounded claims advanced by special interests that sought to deny the public the twin benefits of a source of low-cost electricity and revenues derived from coal mining. A report prepared by Norwest Corporation revealed that the Secretary of the Interior uncritically accepted incomplete and manipulated data from several advocacy organizations to suggest that federal coal producers pay below market royalties and fees. In fact, the report shows that federal coal producers are paying above-market royalty rates as well as bonus bids and other fees that are rarely, if ever, charged on private coal leases.

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The National Mining Association (NMA) is the voice of the American mining industry in Washington, D.C. Membership includes more than 325 corporations involved in all aspects of coal and solid minerals production including coal, metal and industrial mineral producers, mineral processors, equipment manufacturers, state mining associations, bulk transporters, engineering firms, consultants, financial institutions and other companies that supply goods and services to the mining industry.

To: Valentine, Julia[Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]; Milbourn, Cathy[Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
Cc: Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Konkus, John
Sent: Tue 2/28/2017 5:37:43 PM
Subject: RE: CATHY FW: Administrator Pruitt remarks

This is John. Cathy and I will handle them. Thanks!

From: Valentine, Julia
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:37 PM
To: Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: CATHY FW: Administrator Pruitt remarks

Cathy,

Are you handling speech related qs?

Thanks

Julia P. Valentine
Assoc. Dir./Acting Dir.
U.S. EPA, Ofc of Media Relations
202.564.2663 direct

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

m/txt

From: Emily Meredith [<mailto:emeredith@energyintel.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:34 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Administrator Pruitt remarks

Hello,

I'm writing with hopefully a quick q on Administrator Pruitt's remarks. I see that he's delivering a talk that's open to the press.

I'm a bit short-staffed today and am trying to figure out how to best spend time. Would you be able to offer any guidance on whether we should reasonably expect him to speak to the biofuels/renewable fuels issue? If the remarks were to cover, say the stream protection rule and impact on farmers, it's not something I would necessarily cover (though very important!). But the biofuels issue is a big one for us, and my domestic policy reporter is out today so I'd need to switch tasks for the day!

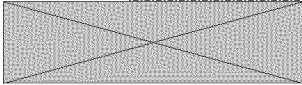
Many thanks, Emily

Emily Meredith
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Tel +1

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Mobile +1

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy



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To: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Ericksen, Doug[ericksen.doug@epa.gov]
From: Konkus, John
Sent: Wed 2/1/2017 6:43:54 PM
Subject: RE: we are hearing that there is some sort of epa regulatory action happening on the hill today? has anyone heard about it?
thanks ng

Congress doing it's job...

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 1:42 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Ericksen, Doug <ericksen.doug@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: we are hearing that there is some sort of epa regulatory action happening on the hill today? has anyone heard about it? thanks ng

John and Doug,

FYI on the subject line above.

Thanks ng

Here is a link to a NY Times article on this and similar planned actions:

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/30/us/politics/congressional-review-act-obama-regulations.html?_r=0

However, the House is planning a Congressional Review Act vote today on DOI's Stream Protection Rule, after taking a couple of procedural votes yesterday.

See more background below.

House GOP Prepares to Dam Obama's Stream Protection Rule

By Elvina Nawaguna, CQ Roll Call

House Republicans plan on Wednesday to use the Congressional Review Act to attempt to reverse the Obama administration's Stream Protection Rule, which targets runoff from coal mining operations and has been criticized by conservatives as harmful to the industry.

A resolution (HJ Res. 38) introduced by Rep. **Bill Johnson**, R-Ohio, would deliver on a GOP promise to act swiftly against the Stream Protection Rule, which was finalized by the Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining in December 2016.

The rule requires coal companies to avoid activities that permanently pollute streams, destroy drinking water sources, increase flood risk or risk damage to forests. It also requires coal companies to restore mined areas to uses they were capable of before mining activities and to replant those areas with native trees.

"Make no mistake about it, this Obama administration rule is not designed to protect streams," Johnson told reporters on Tuesday. "Instead, it was an effort to regulate the coal mining industry right out of business. We could not stand by and allow that to happen."

Republicans have said the regulation was produced without input from states, calling it unnecessary, expensive and duplicative.

On Monday, the House Rules Committee approved a closed rule for the resolution, limiting debate to an hour equally divided between Republicans and Democrats, and prohibiting amendments.

"Tomorrow, we will start the process of closing the book once and for all on eight years of the war on coal," Rep. **Evan H. Jenkins**, R-W.Va., who cosponsored the measure said.

While coal state lawmakers have largely placed the blame for the decline in coal on Obama's clean air regulations, economists argue that the drop in natural gas prices made coal less attractive to the markets and led to its troubles.

The influential U.S. Chamber of Commerce backed GOP plans to scuttle the regulation.

“This rule exceeds the department’s authority, will cause significant economic harm and job losses, and interferes with longstanding and successful state efforts to protect water quality,” Jack Howard, senior vice president of congressional and public affairs at the Chamber, said in a Tuesday news release.

Republicans are planning aggressive use of the CRA, which allows them to nullify regulations issued by the previous administration within the last 60 congressional days of its tenure, to undo former President Barack Obama’s environmental legacy. Obama administration rules issued as far back as June could be repealed under the statute.

House Majority Leader **Kevin McCarthy** of California told reporters on Tuesday many more rules will be reviewed under the CRA in coming weeks. Republicans are also taking aim at Interior’s rule to limit methane leaks from oil and natural gas operations on federal land.

“Part of that is to make America begin to work again, but also looking at common sense regulations to make sure industry can continue to work again,” McCarthy said.

In creating the Stream Protection Rule, the Obama administration argued it was needed to update 33-year-old regulations to take into account the latest science, technology and modern mining practices.

“There is nothing that has greater impact on people and their lives and how they go forward with their lives than this particular rule will have,” House Natural Resources Committee Chairman **Rob Bishop**, R-Utah, said. “It violates the Clean Water Act; it exceeds that particular authority.”